FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

Two Soviet planes carrying medical and food supplies arrived at Aden airport 27 January, Aden radio reported, adding that the delivery of such aid confirms the Soviet Union's "honest and firm principled stands" toward the people of the PDRY. Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, acting chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, expressed "thanks and appreciation" for Soviet support in a speech broadcast by the radio, lauding the results of his recent talks with the Soviet leadership in Moscow. Al-'Attas also expressed appreciation for the stands of the leaders of the YAR, Ethiopia, Syria, and Algeria. On the internal situation, he said efforts are underway to restore social and public services and provide medical treatment to the "thousands" injured in the fighting. A political commentary by Aden radio warned that no assistance should be given to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's "gang of killers," who should not be allowed to use the territories of neighboring states to conduct their "destructive activity."

Meanwhile, Radio Monte Carlo cited unconfirmed reports that some 50,000 supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad have gathered outside Aden, awaiting orders to attack the city. 'Ali Nasir's radio in Abyan has urged inhabitants of Aden to leave the city in preparation for the expected battles, Radio Monte Carlo noted. The UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ* also reported on the broadcasts by 'Ali Nasir's radio, disclosing that its transmissions are clearly heard in the YAR-PDRY border area and in Sanaa. The radio has carried statements denouncing the "illegal decisions" of the "separatist clique" in Aden and announcing 'Ali Nasir's intention to convene a YSP Central Committee meeting. *AL-KHALIJ disclosed. As for the Soviet role in the crisis, Soviet* diplomatic sources in Sanaa cited by *AL-KHALIJ* asserted that the Soviet Union is not mediating between the two warring sides, adding that the USSR adheres to its view that no external party has any right to intervene in the dispute.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed Libya's "right to defend" the Gulf of Sidra in a speech broadcast by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, contending that "all the peoples on earth" support Libya on this issue. Speaking at an "international communities congress" in the Libyan capital, Al-Qadhdhafi told foreigners in the audience that they have the same right as their Libyan "brothers" to join the Libyan Armed Forces and train at Libyan military institutions.

OPEC Affairs

Libya and Saudi Arabia have agreed on the need to hold an OPEC emergency meeting to discuss the "collapse" in the oil market, WAKH reported citing a statement by a Libyan Revolutionary Command Council member to the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD*. In a related development, MENA disclosed that Egypt has decided to cut its production of crude oil by 200,000 barrels per day in response to the "current crisis" in the market. Egypt will also lower the price of crude oil it sells to Israel as of the beginning of February, according to Jerusalem radio.

Egypt-Israel

Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned to Israel after his meetings in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak without a "firm date" for a summit meeting between Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid announced that Egyptian and Israeli experts will resume talks on the Tabah issue "next week," Cairo radio reported.

Jordan-PLO

Talks in Amman between Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat have thus far yielded "no decisive result," the *JORDAN TIMES* reported citing Jordanian official sources. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said that the meeting was held in a "good and positive" atmosphere and that the talks will continue "for several days," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit a large maritime target and a vessel used for laying oil pipelines and attacked four Iranian military camps, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian claim that Iraqi aircraft attacked Eynkhosh with chemical weapons, INA reported. Meanwhile, Iraqi air attacks on Iranian civilian areas claimed the lives of 21 people, according to an Iranian Joint Staff communique cited by IRNA.

Lebanon

In view of the failure to convene a cabinet session 27 January, President Amin al-Jumayyil will deliver the tripartite agreement to the Chamber of Deputies, former President Camille Sham'un disclosed in remarks reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Prime Minister Rashid Karami and five other ministers boycotted the emergency cabinet meeting called by President al-Jumayyil, the radio noted. Meanwhile, Amal Movement Political Bureau Chairman 'Akif Haydar stressed that a political solution is impossible unless Al-Jumayyil resigns from the Presidency, according to Beirut radio.

Pakistan-DRA

Two DRA helicopters strafed the Pakistani town of Parachinar, killing 5 people and injuring 13 others, AFP reported citing Pakistani official sources.

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President Criticises U.S. Aid to Rebels

PM271403 London MORNING STAR in English 27 Jan 86 p 2

[Interview with Afghan President Babrak Karmal by Muhammad Arif and Ron Brown in Afghanistan — date not given]

[Text] Q: What progress has been achieved in Afghanistan since 1981, when British MPs first visited your country. For example, how is the economy doing and could you tell us something about your social reforms?
A: Despite a war situation, many improvements in economic, social, political and cultural fields have been realised although four years is a very limited time to develop a backward country and to implement fundamental social change.

However, in the course of this period we have encouraged working people to participate in the administration of the state, having guaranteed civil liberties, including equal rights for both women and men, religious freedom and protection for ethnic minorities, as well as the right to health care and education without discrimination. In addition workers have been encouraged to join trade unions. In rural areas peasants and their communities have been given further opportunities through voluntary participation in the National Fatherland Front.

We have also encouraged tribesmen to play their part through the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) and frontier jirgas. In short, we are moving toward national reconciliation with the help of a flexible policy and principled compromises. This, in turn, has helped us press ahead with land and water reforms so that more farming cooperatives can be established with the latest technology.

In the industrial field, too, thanks to support from the private sector, enterprises have now stimulated major growth in our economy — the volume of production being 5 per cent higher than the year before the Revolution. But as we are investing heavily in transportation and construction projects, we will do much better in the future.

Q: This leads us to the security question. Are counterrevolutionaries still active and are you winning?
A: Yes, the counter-revolutionaries still make life difficult for our people through terror tactics and economic blackmail, but only because the U.S. has so far spent over two billion dollars financing and arming these gangsters from bases in Pakistan. Despite this activity we have been able to build up our economy, but we need peace if we are to forge ahead as planned, bringing our country, with a 95 percent illiteracy rate, into the 20th century.

Are we winning? Of course. We have now broadened our support through the National Fatherland Front, and by making use of an amnesty decree many opponents have now joined us. Also our tribesmen, recognising the benefits of our reforms, have expressed support for the revolution through their traditional jirgas. Even our enemies cannot gloss over these basic facts.

Q: Can you say something about the border situation and why Pakistan is attacking the Afridi tribesmen?
A: The free tribes, who are our kith and kin, have held jirgas opposing the use of their territory by counter-revolutionary bands. This has enraged Pakistan's military dictatorship and their American backers. Obviously, then, we will not remain indifferent if our people in the border regions continue to be attacked by Zia's forces.

Q: What is your view of the recent Reagan/Gorbachev talks?
A: With the threat of nuclear conflict, the agreements reflected in the joint declaration have profound significance. However, vital problems such as the halting of the arms race and consolidation of a durable global peace plan have still to be realised, bearing in mind that further massive expenditure in space wars technology is not only wasteful, but dangerous. The Soviet Union is therefore correct to put forward constructive proposals which demand a positive response from the U.S. if she wants to remain faithful to the Geneva Accord.

Q: Do you think the current talks in Geneva will help Afghanistan?
A: As mentioned in my previous answers, many of our problems arise from American interference in our country's internal affairs, using its allies and agents in other countries. Like the Nazis, the U.S. has declared different parts of the world as zones of vital interest, including Afghanistan. But we will not tolerate this imperialist approach to our affairs. However, if Pakistan and the U.S. genuinely want a solution to outstanding problems we are willing to meet them for direct talks, and with an agreement to stop the undeclared war against Afghanistan we will ensure that the Soviet troops return home.

Q: Would you go to London if the British government arranged direct negotiations or would you prefer a conference for this purpose to be held in Kabul?
A: In our view direct talks should be held in Geneva, not London, but any conference must be chaired by the UN. However, anything the British government can do to bring this about would be helpful.

PDPA Delegation Departs for Cuban Congress

LD271951 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, heading a PDPA Central Committee delegation, today left for Havana to take part in the work of the congress of the Cuba's Communist Party. Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the Party Central Committee, and the ambassador of Cuba in Kabul were present at Kabul international airport to see them off.

Cooperation Agreement With GDR Signed

LD272031 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry and the GDR Foreign Affairs Ministry was

signed today at the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs. The agreement was signed by Sarwar Yuresh, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs, for the DRA side, and by Kurt Krueger, GDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Kabul.

International Trade Relations Detailed
LD240001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpts] In the light of the rational and principled policy of the DRA Government, the international economic relations of the DRA are being extended in a normal manner within the limits of economic and technical possibilities. Broadening of trade between countries requires bilateral cooperation. Fortunately, this cooperation, particularly with the financial and commercial assistance of the Soviet Union, is increasing satisfactorily for the interest of the country and our people.

As a result of selfless and fraternal assistance, sufficient quantities of commodities and goods — the basic needs of the country such as wheat, sugar cooking oil, tea, soap, fabrics, and raw material for factories — have been imported from the Soviet Union and other countries and have been put at the disposal of the toiling people of the country.

The volume of the country's foreign trade in addition to the grant-in-aid and project assistance, reached $1.68 billion last year, which in view of the envisaged plan, indicates an increase of 21 percent. The Soviet Union, by purchasing $370 million worth of goods from the DRA, has taken a 56 percent share of DRA exports, and by selling $515 million worth of goods has taken a 57 percent share of DRA imports. The rest of the socialist countries took a 3 percent share in DRA exports and a 6 percent share of the imports last year.

The DRA has normal trade with India, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Canada, China, Taiwan, and a number of the West European countries [words indistinct] and the DRA desires further expansion of trade with these countries.

Mohammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce, said on the domestic trade of the country: Fortunately, during the recent years, the turnover of the domestic trade by government enterprises is increased. The volume of retail sales by government enterprises reach 14.3 billion afghanis which indicates an increase of 26 percent more than planned.

Riyadh Reports Mujahidin Operations in Qandahar
GF260642 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have attacked three positions belonging to the Afghan regime forces which are supported by the USSR in Qandahar Province 8 km from the border with Pakistan.

In the attack, the mujahidin killed three soldiers and captured four others.

AFP: 260 Rebels Killed
HK281224 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan troops have killed 260 rebels and injured at least 60 civilians in two major operations along the Pakistani and Iranian borders, Western diplomats said here today.

The security forces, using some 400 military vehicles, killed 140 mujahidin guerrillas in a three-day security sweep beginning January 17 through the Gushta District of Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, which borders Pakistan, the diplomats said. The rebels claimed they destroyed six tanks, two helicopters and an air force jet in the fighting. The Soviet forces suffered unknown casualties.

A total of 120 mujahidin were killed and at least 60 civilians were injured when security forces bombarded a guerrilla hideout at the city of Herat on the border with Iran on January 12, the diplomats said.

The diplomats also reported there had been shooting at the Secretariat of the Afghan Prime Minister Soltan Ali Keshtmand last week. They said the shooting lasted 20 minutes, and may have been a result of a dispute between factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The party organ *HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB (REALITY OF THE REVOLUTION)*, called for party unity in an editorial the following day.

Rebels last week carried out rocket attacks on Soviet military installations and other targets in Kabul, including the vicinity of the Inter-Continental Hotel, where Western journalists were staying.

Gandhi Asks 2 Ministers To Resign Over Spy Link

HK280632 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT Jan 86

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi asked two cabinet ministers to resign yesterday after investigations linked them to a alleged foreign spy network busted last year, newspapers reported today. In a surprise move, Mr. Gandhi asked minister for rural development, Chandulal Chandrakar and Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, K. P. Singh Deo to quit.

THE TIMES OF INDIA reported the two were linked with an alleged spy network run by businessman Ram Swarup who is facing charges of spying for Taiwan and perhaps Western intelligence agencies. "This is the first time that two ... ministers had to resign for being named in an espionage case", the newspaper said. A similar report was carried by *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* which reported that the Chief of the Electronic Commission, Sanjeevi Rao, [who] was also asked to resign had been named in Mr. Swarup's confession. No immediate comment was available from the government or the two ministers.

Mr. Swarup, chief of an organisation known as the Anti-Communist League, was arrested late last year on his return from a visit to the Far East. The two ministers had been named in the charge sheet in the Ram Swarup case, *THE TIMES OF INDIA* reported. No date has yet been fixed for the Swarup trial.

This is the second espionage scandal in almost a year to have rocked the government, observers noted. A year ago, principal secretary to the Prime Minister P. C. Alexander, had to resign following the involvement of his secretary in the Coomar Narain espionage case. French ambassador Serge Boidevaix, the French deputy Military Attache, five Soviet, one Polish and two East German Diplomats had to leave India following the busting of the Narain network.

Further Details

HK281218 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP) — Two Indian ministers have resigned because they accepted invitations to visit Taiwan from a man later accused of spying for Taipei, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported today.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi yesterday asked two ministers — Minister of State for Rural Development Chandulal Chandrakar and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.P. Singh Deo — to resign after investigations associated them with an alleged foreign spy network busted last year. M. S. Sanjeevi Rao, chairman of the Electronic Commission, also resigned.

The agency quoted authoritative sources as having said Indian businessman Ram Swarup, who is accused of running an spy network for Taiwan, had invited all three to visit Taiwan. The agency said the two ministers had resigned "to uphold high public morality because they had unwittingly accepted invitations to visit Taiwan from a person later charged with espionage activity." Mr. Chandrakar, a journalist by profession, visited Taiwan with a party of other Indian journalists before he became a member of parliament. Said Mr. Chandrakar: "Since my name was mentioned by Mr. Swarup, propriety demanded that I should not remain in ministerial office." The agency's sources said that by leaving office the ministers would improve their chances of being absolved of suspicion. All the three are understood to have offered to face an impartial investigation to enable them clear their names, the agency added.

Libya Calls For 'Emergency' Nonaligned Meeting

BK280306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Libya has urged India as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to call for an emergency session of nonaligned foreign ministers to discuss the threat caused by U.S. actions in the Mediterranean. The Libyan foreign minister has sent a letter in this regard to the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat. He has also sent a communication to the UN secretary general urging him to take measures vested in him under the UN Charter.

Further Reportage on Visit of Greek President

Lauds Soviet Nuclear Proposal

BK260351 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The prime minister of Greece, Dr Andreas Papandreou, has described the Soviet proposal for a total elimination of nuclear arms by the end of this century as worthwhile. He has urged the United States to accept the proposal in the interest of peace and survival of mankind. Delivering the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad memorial lecture on striving for peace, Dr Papandreou expressed strong opposition to the U.S. "star wars" project and said that the project contravenes the basic principles of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

Earlier, in his welcome address the vice-president, Mr R. Venkataraman, described Dr Papandreou as a great crusader against the nuclear arms race. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, presented a memento to the Greek prime minister.

Comments on U.S. Bases

BK271621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The six nations, which issued a declaration on disarmament from Delhi, are planning an initiative in support of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev's proposal.

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the prime minister of Greece, who is one of the signatories to the delcaration, told a news conference in New Delhi today that work has already been done at lower levels. The top leaders will issue a joint statement in the next few weeks in this connection. There will be other meetings of leaders of the six nations well before the projected summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev later this year. The other signatories to the 6-nation declaration are Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania besides India. Mr Papandreou described

Mr Gorbachev's proposal as one of the most positive moves that could have been made. He said he had discussed the proposal with prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and they are in complete agreement with the proposal which envisaged elimination of nuclear weapons before the end of the century.

Replying to a question, the Greek prime minister said his country will not allow its territory to be used by the United States for any action against Libya.

Referring to Indo-Greek relations, he said though these are good, a great deal can be done to promote them further as there is a great potential for economic cooperation.

USSR's Kuznetsov, Delegation Visit Bangalore

BK271419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] An 18-member Soviet parliamentary delegation now on a tour of India arrived in Bangalore today on a 2-day visit of the city. It was led by Mr Kuznetsov, first vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Continuing Reportage on Unrest, Clashes Among Sikhs

Akal Takht Head Priest Removed

BK261619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The kar seva [voluntary service] of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikhs] in Amritsar started today. The five saints who were authorized jointly by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee [SGPC], all India Sikh Students Federation and Dum Dami Takshal began it by making cuts on the front balcony of the second floor of the Akal Takht. The kar seva began after the Sarbat Khalsa [World Sikh Convention] gave its approval.

Dum Dami Sarbat Khalsa Takshal sponsored meeting at Akal Takht in the Golden Temple complex today removed the head priest of Akal Takht, Jathedar Kripal Singh and announced constitution of a committee to look after the affairs of Sikh gurdwaras in place of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. It adopted a resolution appointing Mr Jasbir Singh Rode, a detained nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as new head priest of Akal Takht.

The resolution said that till his release a leader of the Dum Dami Takshal, Mr Gurdev Singh, will act as the head priest. It has sacked Giani Sahib Singh, head Granthi [priest] of Golden Temple and sought resignations from the head priest of Dum Dama Sahib, Sant Lakha Singh, Kesgarh Sahib, Jathedar Harcharan Singh Mahalon, and head granthi of Akal Takht, Giani Preetam Singh.

In a sharp reaction, the SGPC president, Mr G.S. Tohra, described the resolution as totaly wrong and anti-panth [Sikh]. He has convened an emergency general house meeting of the SGPC at Anantpur Sahib on 28 January to take stock of the situation created by the decisions of the Sarbat Khalsa.

Akali Dal Condemns Dismissal

BK271611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The Akali Dal has condemned the allegedly illegal activity which took place in the Golden Temple complex yesterday. A resolution adopted at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh said these acts are against the tenets of Sikhism. It said the SGPC [Shiromabi Gurdwara Prabandhak — Sikh temple management committee] is the only democratically constituted body responsible for the management of the gurdwaras. The right to summon the Sarbat Khalsa [World Sikh Convention] rests only with the chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikhs] and the appointment of jathedars [priests] can be done only as per the Gurdwara Act, the resolution stated.

The meeting appealed to the entire Sikh panth [community] to give the cooperation to the Akali Dal and the SGPC for maintaining the high traditions and sanctity of Shri Darbara Sahib [Golden Temple] and Shri Akal Takht Sahib. The meeting was presided over by the party president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. The party MP's, MLA's [members of legislative assembly], district presidents and senior Akali Dal leaders took part.

Releasing the resolution to newsmen, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee chief, Mr G.S. Tohra, said an informal meeting of the SGPC will be held at Anantpur Sahib tomorrow to decide the future course of action. He said he is against any confrontation within the Golden Temple complex. But at the same time any violation of the Sikh tradition and sanctity of a religious place cannot be tolerated, he added.

Militants Begin Demolition of Temple

HK270838 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Japan 27 (AFP) — Sikh militants today began demolishing the Akal Takht in the Golden Temple here after hoisting the flag of Khalistan, the name of the separate Sikh state they seek, eyewitnesses said.

About a dozen of the saffron flags were hoisted above the temple, the Sikh religion's holiest shine, before about 100 volunteers equipped with hammers began demolishing the Akal Takht, the highest seat of Sikh temporal authority, the eyewitnesses said. The building was badly damaged when the Indian army stormed the temple in June 1984 to flush out armed Sikh militants, and later repaired. But the work was done with government assistance and without the approval of the Sikh religious authorities, so the militants decided to demolish the building and rebuild it themselves. Police and supporters of the Sikh moderates' Akali Dal party were absent from the temple premises today, leaving the shrine under the militants' control, the eyewitnesses said.

Sikh moderates last year struck a deal with the federal government intended to end an often violent campaign for greater autonomy for the northern Indian state of Punjab, the Sikh

homeland. But militants rejected the deal and continued to campaign for a separate Sikh state.

Troops Build Bunkers Around Temple

HK281318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 28 Jan 86

[By Rajinder Beri]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 28 (AFP) — Indian paramilitary troops began building sand bunkers around the Golden Temple here today, eyewitnesses said as some 600 Sikh militants remained in control of the shrine they took over Sunday. "We are not going to quit our most sacred shrine.... it is our right to stay here," militant spokesman Mohkam Singh said, reacting to the buildup.

Units from the Indian paramilitary border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) began setting up the bunkers with sand bags atop the buildings around the Golden Temple, the eyewitnesses said. "Since this morning they have made 12 such bunkers, and the troops are armed," one eyewitnesses said. The temple was the scene of fierce fighting between the army and armed militants in June 1984. Some 650 people were killed in Operation Blue Star, launched to clear the shrine of the militants. "The scene looks like the pre-Blue Star days, though the militants inside have very few firearms," an eyewitness told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

Official sources refused to say if another operation was being planned. They described the buildup as a "precautionary measure," but did not elaborate.

Eyewitnesses said that some 600 militants as well as some 4,000 pilgrims were inside the shrine. "They look like pilgrims, but who knows how many of them are militants or at least their sympathisers," one local source said. The city was appeared to be unaffected by the activity at the temple.

Sources close to the administration here said that even if the government decided to clear the militants, there would not be much bloodshed. "The militants inside mostly have swords and spears and very few guns, mostly British vintage rifles... if there is a police action, there will be lot of noise, but few casualties," one source said.

The moderates, who left the shrine Sunday when some 15,000 militants arrived, were meeting in Anantpur Sahib today to review the situation, domestic news agencies reported.

The militants, mostly students, took over the shrine pledging to continue their "holy war" for an independent Sikh homeland. The moderates, who ended an autonomy drive with an accord with the federal government last July, are in power in the state.

In New Delhi, the Indian press called for state and federal government intervention in the situation.

A senior Home Ministry official said the federal government "would prefer the Sikhs themselves to find a solution to this. Of course the responsibility to maintain law and order is that of the Punjab Government. The central government is watching the situation very closely."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported from Anantpur Sahib that the moderates' meeting today requested the chief priest of the Akal Takht, Kirpal Singh, who was ousted by the militants on Sunday, to summon a convention as soon as possible. A similar convention called by the militants at the Golden Temple Sunday announced the "dissolution" of the powerful Sikh temples managing committee, led by moderate leader G.S. Tohra, and removed top Sikh priests of the holiest Sikh shrine.

The militant convention also "excommunicated" federal president Zail Singh and a minister in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government for their alleged anti-Sikh activities during and after the June 1984 Indian Army assault. Mr Singh and the minister are Sikhs. The convention being sought by the moderates was seen by observers as a move to counter the militants' actions and to remedy the situation.

500 Preventive Arrests Made in Uttar Pradesh

BK280325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh [UP] Government has made elaborate arrangements all over the state to maintain law and order in view of the rasta roko [road blockade] call given by the Lok Dal [opposition party] for today. The state government has made 500 preventive arrests in view of the agitiation. These include 12 MLA's [members of the legislative assembly].

An official spokesman said in Lucknow that prohibitory orders have been promulgated at various places. He said that efforts are being made to ensure that neither rail nor road traffic is dislocated. He, however, said that district magistrates have been advised to order suspension of UP state roadways buses between 0900 and 1700 if necessary.

Police pickets are being posted at sensitive points and vital installations in the state. All educational institutions in Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Allahabad and Lucknow have been closed as a precautionary measure.

Strike Has 'No Isapact'

BK280917 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the rasta roko [road block] call given by the Lok Dal evoked no response. The All India Radio Lucknow correspondent who went around a number of localities in the city reports that government buses and other road transport are plying normally. Shops and business establishments are open. Government offices and banks are functioning normally.

An official spokesman said that according to the reports received at Lucknow so far no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the state barring a few incidents of brickbatting. State transport buses are plying normally. Shops and business establishments are open. The spokesman said trains passing through

the state are also running as usual. According to police sources Lok Dal workers who tried to disrupt the movement of traffic were rounded up in different parts of the state.

The official spokesman also said about 2,500 persons were arrested in this connection. They include over two dozen members of the legislative assembly. The leader of the opposition party in the assembly, Mr Mulan Singh Yadev, along with over a dozen Lok Dal workers were also arrested in Lucknow this morning. Our Kanpur correspondent says there has been no impact of the rasta roko at all in the city.

Congress-I Official Shot

BK280312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] The vice president of the Amritsar District Congress-I committee and sarpanch [village head] of Gopalpura village, Mr Sohan Lal Sharma, was shot dead by two unidentified extremists yesterday evening. Mr Sharma was waylaid while he was going to his village in his car. In another incident at (Kalakhurana), 18 km from Batala, a person and his wife were injured when they were shot at by three miscreants.

Five Killed in Incidents Near Afghan Border

HK280108 Hong Kong AFP in English 0018 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP) — A total of five people were killed in violent incidents in and near the Pakistani town of Parachinar, near the border with Afghanistan, correspondents in Peshawar said quoting official sources. Two women and three girls were injured when two Afghan helicopters attacked a village between Parachinar and the border Monday, the sources said. Five hours later, the helicopters returned to stage a 40-minute attack on the town itself, killing one person, injuring eight and causing serious damage to 18 targets.

In the ensuing chaos, a bomb exploded in the town, killing four Afghan refugees, the sources said. About 100 kms (62 miles) further South, at Miran Shah, another bomb attack at a market injured 35 people Monday, according to the correspondnets.

The Pakistani News Agency AFP reported the arrest at the border of two Afghans carrying 16 kilos (35 pounds) of explosives concealed in tea chests. The agency said they had been sent by the Afghan security services to carry out attacks on Pakistani territory.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency TASS reported that Afghan leader Babrak Karmal had told reporters in Kabul of a three-point agreement between his country and Pakistan.

Protest Lodged With DRA

BK281552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Two Afghan MI-24 helicopters, violating Pakistan's airspace at 1710 yesterday [1210 GMT on 27 January], intruded 10 miles into Pakistani territory.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning where a strong protest was lodged with him over these uprovoked attacks. The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked to inform his authorities that the entire responsibility for serious consequences will rest on Kabul if such attacks are not halted.

Romanian Deputy Premier Meets Junejo 27 Jan

BK271649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion M. Nicolae met Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with special emphasis on steps to increase economic cooperation between the two countries.

Nicolae delivered a message of best wishes from the Romanian prime minister to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The prime minister asked Nicolae to convey his best wishes and thanks to the Romanian prime minister. He expressed the hope that joint ventures between Pakistan and Romania will be successful. Minister of State for Production Islamuddin Sheykh and the Romanian charge d'affaires were also present on this occasion.

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Nicolae and Federal Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq also exchanged views in Islamabad today on matters relating to an increase in economic cooperation between Pakistan and Romania. The Romanian deputy prime minister said there are adequate possibilities for increasing economic relations in various fields between the two countries.

The finance minister told the Romanian deputy prime minister that Pakistan is deeply interested in promoting economic cooperation with Romania. He identified concrete projects for bilateral cooperation.

The details of these projects will be reviewed before the forthcoming meeting of the joint ministerial commission to be held in Bucharest. He thanked Romania for its assistance to Pakistan in various fields.

JANG on Iranian President's Recent Visit

GF281448 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Jan 86 p 3

[Commentary by Ashraf Tariq: "Importance of Iranian President's Visit"]

[Excerpts] No doubt the recent visit to Pakistan by the president of our neighboring country, Iran, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, is a good omen for the people of both countries. President General Ziaul Haq has been wishing for the last year or so that the Iranian head of state would visit Pakistan so that relations between the two countries could be expanded; but coolness from the Iranian side would not let this happen. Basically, there were two reasons for this coolness: first, the Pakistan-U.S. friendship, and two, Pakistan's neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. However, it was surprising that despite these two hurdles, the president of Iran decided to visit Pakistan.

In 1979 the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a critical moment in terms of Pakistan's defense. Compared with a superpower, Pakistan is a small, poor country. Keeping in mind these three [as published] drawbacks, it was in Pakistan's interest to improve and strengthen its relations with the other superpower — the United States. Pakistan acted accordingly, but in doing so it maintain its sovereignty. Despite pressures from the United States, Pakistan did not allow military bases to be set up, contrary to what the Philippine Government had done. Moreover, Pakistan declined to participate in the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force plan.

In spite of all this, some extremists in Iran kept dubbing Pakistan as a lackey and hanger-on of the United States. The irony is that Iran for its part set up strong and deep relations with Syria and Libya, which are counted among the allies of the Soviet Union.

BANGLADESH

Malaysian Minister Comments on Cooperation, Trade

BK251624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The Malaysian minister for public enterprises, Mrs Aziz Rafidah, has reaffirmed the government's desire to widen cooperation and increase trade with Bangladesh. She was addressing a news conference in Dhaka this morning on the conclusion of her 6-day official visit to Bangladesh at the head of a 20-member trade delegation. She said there is wide scope for both countries to cooperate in joint purchase of raw materials and joint marketing of products. She expressed her country's willingness to import a number of products from Bangladesh, especially potatoes, fresh vegetables, maripe products, tea, and newsprint. Before leaving Dhaka, the Malaysian minister called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan.

PRC Minister, Delegation Conclude Visit 23 Jan

BK240204 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] The 10-member Chinese delegation led by the minister for chemical industry, Mr Qin Zhongda, left Dhaka yesterday after an 8-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr Qin, who led his country at the second session of the Bangladesh-China joint commission, also attended the inauguration of the Kalas urea fertilizer factory. He also held detailed discussions with a number of ministers to (?stabilize) and develop the existing economic relations between the two countries.

China has agreed to assist Bangladesh in the mining and exploration of coal deposits at (Boropokuria) in the northern parts of the country. It also agreed to consider (?Dhaka's) request for setting up of some new projects including a number of fertilizer plants and power distribution projects. The delegation visited Chittagong, Chandraghona and Kaftari.

SRI LANKA

Troops, Helicopters Repulse Tamil Attack

HK250600 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Colombo, Jan 25 (AFP) — Troops using mortars and air support repulsed an attack by militant Tamil separatists on an army camp in the northern Jaffna peninsula last night, security sources said today. The militants fired mortars and small arms at the camp in the village of Navatkuli about eight kilometres (five miles) from Jaffna town, the sources said.

Residents said that helicopters flying over the small village in support of the soldiers fired at the attackers. They said that casualties were likely as several houses were damaged by shell fire from the camp and some were set ablaze. Other sources said one person had been injured and taken to hospital. In Colombo, officials said they had no reports of helicopters firing at the village.

Police said that a police station in the Eastern Batticaloa District also came under mortar and automatic fire yesterday. They added that Wellawali police station was slightly damaged, but there were no casualties.

In Ampara District to the south, a suspected Tamil militant detained at an army camp was shot dead during an escape bid yesterday, security sources said. A magisterial inquiry into the death was to be held today, the sources added.

Terrorist Groups Reportedly Planning Joint Attacks

BK261131 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has stated that fair and practical measures should be taken to solve the ethnic problem while armed and military strength is used against terrorists. The minister said that those who say that they have a problem should bear in mind that a solution could be found only through negotiations and not through violent means.

The minister made the statement last night at the conclusion of the 115th mahapola at the Batemulla Maha Vidyalaya [secondary school] at Hadradiya. Speaking further, Mr Athulathmudali said that we should try to dispel the false fears of the people. The minister noted that the people of Jaffna had expressed opposition to a security zone around the Jaffna Fort. However, he pointed out that since the security zone was imposed, there had been no attacks on the force. He added that he was prepared to talk with the people of Jaffna to win them over.

Mr Athulathmudali, referring to the problem of stateless people, said that if the 94,000 Indians were not given citizenship, these people would be driven to terrorism.

Four terrorist groups under the ENLF [Eelam National Liberation Front] are now preparing for a joint attack on the security forces in the north, according to intelligence reports received in Colombo. This is the first time that the four terrorist groups are uniting to launch an attack.

National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali said that the government was fully prepared for any terrorist attack. What the government strategy was could not be disclosed for security reasons, he added.

The four groups preparing for the attacks are said to be EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. The PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] led by Uma Maheswaran, however, did not come under the ENLF umbrella.

The minister said that this was the first time four terrorist groups are proposing a united attack. That may perhaps be because the terrorist groups are now convinced of the increasing strength and competence of the security forces in combating any form of terrorist attack.

Draft Citizenship Bill Referred to Supreme Court

BK251134 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The president has referred the citizenship bill to the Supreme Court to determine whether its provisions are consistent with the Constitution. A 3-member bench comprising the chief justice, Mr S. Sharvananda, and justices Ranasinghe and L.H. de Alwis, will sit on Monday to determine the constitutionality of the bill. The bill is titled The Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons [word indistinct]. It is being referred to the Supreme Court under Article 122 of the Constitution which bestows the court with special constitutional jurisdiction in respect of a urgent bill.

The relevant article requires the court to make its determination within 24 hours or for such longer period not exceeding 3 days as the president may specify from the date of its assembling. The court is required to communicate its determination only to the president and to the speaker. Article 123 requires the court to state the reasons for its determination and, where a bill or any part thereof is inconsistent with the Constitution, to specify the provision of provisions with which the conflict occurrs.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party is challenging the bill as being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

Indian Official Comments on Citizenship Issue

BK261320 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, said that a critical and unjust assessment had been in the statement of the SLFP about the [words indistinct] cooperative efforts undertaken by the governments of India and Sri Lanka regarding the stateless persons. The high commissioner said the statement that the original Indo-Lankan agreement had been changed or violated by arrangements announced on 15 January is incorrect.

The high commissioner was replying to queries regarding a statement issued by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike recently. He said the Indian government's response to suggestions made by the Sri Lankan Government does not violate the 1964 and 1974 agreements in any manner in letter or in spirit. He said that neither Indian nor Sri Lankan citizenship was to be imposed on stateless persons in Sri Lanka. It was purely voluntary. The Government of India will be conferring Indian citizenship on Tamils of Indian origin on a voluntary basis and only those who have applied for it by October 1981 would get it.

The high commissioner remarked that he was not aware of illicit immigrants coming from India to Sri Lanka. India has no people to protect in Sri Lanka except Indian citizens and it is India's fervent hope that the Sri Lankan Government and its leaders will protect all its citizens.

Foreign Affairs Official on Relations With Israel

BK251009 Colombo SUN in English 17 Jan 86 p 1, 13

[By Zacki Jabbar]

[Text] Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tyronne Fernando on Wednesday dispelled fears that the presence of Israelis in Sri Lanka meant the government's foreign policy on West Asia had changed. Terrorism and the security situation in the country drove us to seek military assistance from the Israeli's. However, this was only a temporary measure the Deputy Minister assured.

Delivering a lecture on "Sri Lanka's foreign policy on West Asia with particular reference to Palestine," at Hotel Ranmuthu, Mr Fernando said as soon as the terrorist problem was solved the Israelis would leave the country.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he stressed that in the ongoing peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the latter remained the main concern of the Sri Lankan government. "We are a free country and have very cordial ties with all others. Maybe we are closer to some, more than others. However we should be watchful of our enemies as well as our friends," he said.

The Deputy Minister denied that the setting up of the Israeli interests section would eventually lead to full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The conflict between the Americans and Libyans had not changed the policy of our government in any way. The government did not intend to cow down to any superpower. The signing of the barter agreement with the Chinese Government in the face of American threats was ample proof of this, the Deputy Minister said.

U.S. 'Plot' Against Libya Condemned

LD251508 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Saturday that the U.S. military exercise near Libyan territorial waters is a hostile action against Libya's sovereignty. The spokesman described the maneuver as a "plot aimed at disrupting security of a country (Libya) which is determined not to yield to aggression of the U.S. and the Zionist regime."

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the threats of the U.S. military forces against Libya and reiterates its solidarity with the Islamic Libya and its Muslim people, the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry said that the recent threats of the United States will make Libya and other Muslim revolutionary governments in the region more determined to fight imperialism and Zionism. The U.S. military exercise follows a scandalous failure of its sanctions against Libya, the spokesman concluded.

Military Parades Planned for 10-Day Dawn Ceremonies

LD271339 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — The commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rezai'e, in a statement issued here Monday [27 January], said that during the "ten-day dawn" ceremonies marking seventh anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, more than 220 divisions of the Basij (mobilisation) and IRGC will hold special marches in cities throughout the country.

The statement is issued following the recent statement of the Majlis Speaker and Special Representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafanjani, that the revolution anniversary celebrations will be a time to show the combat power and readiness of the Iranian volunteer forces to the enemy. The statement called on all provincial IRGC commanders to take measures in this respect to disappoint the world oppressor further.

Oil Price Reduction Termed Anti-OPEC 'Conspiracies'

GF270912 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran's Stance Regarding the Recent Conspiracies Against OPEC"]

[Text] Following the hatching of the recent conspiracies by world oppression to dismantle OPEC through reducing oil prices, the under secretary of the Oil Ministry explained the Islamic Republic's stance with regard to this plot. In an interview with IRNA he referred to the objectives of the oppressive powers in bringing about a drop in oil prices.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran deems the policy of increasing production by the North Sea producers — Britain and Norway — as an instrument for imposing the will of the imperialist circles. Iran calls on all OPEC members to consider boycotting commercial dealings or imposing import restructions on goods manufactured by these two countries and to continue this boycott as long as the policy of reducing oil prices continues.

The extensive efforts of world oppression to reduce oil prices and dissolve OPEC -- which has become inevitabile due to the circumstances created by the official reduction of oil prices by Britain and Norway and the increase in production quotas by some other oil-producing countries such as the Baghdad ruling regime -- can only be interpreted as a warning to OPEC members, as stated by most experts. The trend of falling oil prices in the international market has almost reached a final phase in the plot to initiate a price war. In fact, it is of this sensitive situation that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly warned at OPEC sessions. The Islamic Republic of Iran stressed the need to stabilize oil prices at the 76th session of OPEC. The effects of exceeding the production ceiling stipulated by OPEC and the adoption of an erroneous policy for the sale of oil by most members, despite Iran's insistence on the need to preserve the unity and unanimity of OPEC, are now surfacing on the international oil market.

In its last sessions on 7 and 9 December, OPEC unexpectedly announced that it has the right to defend its production quota in the world market even at the expense of reducing its oil prices. The Islamic Republic of Iran considered this the beginning of a downward trend in oil prices. The Islamic Republic of Iran annnounced at the last OPEC conference that a reduction in oil prices is not the only way to defend OPEC's quota in the market and that there are other instruments to counteract a fall in oil prices. The Islamic Republic believes the import of goods from the oil-producing countries is a powerful lever which can be used to prevent the purchase of inexpensive oil by these countries. There is no doubt that even now we can halt the current trend from spreading by adopting a principled stance and revising our trade ties within the infrastructure of a boycott against the countries which are now pioneering the conspiracy against OPEC.

As it has stated repeatedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will — with the collaboration of other progressive members of OPEC such as Libya and Algeria — firmly resist the reactionary policy within the organization and once again affirms its decision to abide by the quotas and prices specified by OPEC.

Tanzanian Energy Minister Arrives For Oil Talks

LD272105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Following the visit to Tanzania by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and within the context of the talks held, Tanzania's energy minister and a delegation arrived in Tehran this morning in order to carry out a series of talks on oil issues. He met and had talks with the oil minister this afternoon.

During the meeting the two sides exchanged views on oil studies, exploration, drilling, production and refining. It was decided that within Iran's economic and technical assistance to Third World countries, the granting of technical-economic facilities to Tanzania with the aim of utilizing that country's oil and gas resources should become the subject of fresh investigations and studies.

The Tanzanian Republic's gas and oil resources are still in the primary phases from the standpoint of exploration and production and hence the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance to that African country could bring about remarkable changes in Tanzania's economy.

Construction Jihad To Assist Tanzanian Development

LD270839 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry will put its experiences at the disposal of Tanzania to carry out its programs in agricultural and rural development, the ministry's deputy Rasoul Lahijanian said here Monday.

He said that Construction Jihad Ministry's cooperation with Tanzania, part of a letter of understanding signed between the two countries during the recent trip of President Khamene'i to that country, would be mainly focused on livestock breeding and medical services.

Lahijanian who was a member of the Iranian delegation which accompanied President Khamene'i in his tour of Asian and African countries, also added that while the delegation was in Pakistan talks were held between officials of the two countries for rural development and training of Jihad personnel. He said that the talks were held within the framework of economic cooperation of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Lahijanian noted that the delegation's trip to Asian and African countries had two objectives: to reiterate Iran's anti-apartheid stance and its constant fight against imperialism and also to discuss Iran's cooperation with those countries. To this end, he added, Iran and Tanzania signed a letter of understanding for agricultural and rural development, noting that it was Iran's duty to assist countries which were fighting for their independence.

He said that programs within the framework of this cooperation will be carried out by next spring and expressed hope that Iran's successful experiences would entail effective results in Tanzania and other African countries.

Gulf War Will Not Halt Aid to African Nations

LD262127 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri Sunday said that the Iraqi-imposed war would not prevent the Islamic Republic from assisting the African nations. Javad Mansur is currently in Freetown, Sierra Leone at the head of a delegation to participate in the inauguration ceremony of President Momoh. The deputy minister said that Iran is to establish an organization named "Support for Africa" in order to continue assistance to the oppressed African Continent.

He also thanked the Muslim people of Sierra Leone who called at the Iranian Embassy in Freetown requesting that they be dispatched to the battlefronts for fighting the Iraqi forces. Mansuri called on the African nations to defend their rights and support the Islamic Republic's stand vis-a-vis the aggressors.

Bulgarian Commercial Counselor on Trade Ties

LD251927 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — The commercial counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Ivan Nikolov said at a press interview here Saturday that the volume of trade exchanges between the Islamic Republic and Bulgaria have increased three-fold since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

He said the figure of bilateral trade in 1976-77 was about 80 million dollars compared with the present 320 million dollars. He further said that the volume of trade exchanges between the two sides is expected to rise to 500 million dollars in 1986. Mr. Nikolov said the third annual joint economic meeting will be held in Sofia soon.

Minister of Agriculture 'Ali 'Abbas Zali is the chairman of the Iranian commission and Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov heads the Bulgarian commission in the annual meetings.

On increased non-oil imports from Iran to his country, Nikolov said that contracts have been concluded with the Ministry of Heavy Industries, as a result of which Iran will export 500 Renault cars as well as 44 minibuses to Bulgaria. He added that his country also purchases concentrated zinc and copper, cotton as well as clothing, and textile materials from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nikolov said that in 1985, his country purchased 16 million dollars in non-oil goods from Iran which figure is expected to increase to 20 to 25 million dlrs by the end of 1986.

He said in December 1985 an important contract was signed between Iran and Bulgaria for manufacture of lift trucks in Tabriz machine building factory (in Iran's east Azarbayjan Province). He said according to this contract Bulgaria purchases 5,000 sets of counterweights for lift trucks, assembled in Tabriz factory.

Nikolov further said that according to another agreement signed between the two countries, Bulgaria will automate the painting line at Iran-Khodro car manufacturing factory, as well as some sections at Arak wagon manufacturing plant and piston producing factory of Tabriz. He added that his coutnry has also cooperated in technology transfer to Iran and continues its exports of cheese and processing equipments to the Islamic Republic.

Qatari Labor Minister on Expanding Relations

LD251923 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — In a meeting with the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Qatar, Baqir Sakha'i Saturday, Qatari minister of labour and social affairs 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari announced his country's preparedness to expand relations with Iran in all fields.

In response the Iranian Ambassador said that Iran is willing to expand its relations with Qatar. He also noted that the Islamic Republic's foreign policy is based on establishing and expanding relations with its neighbours.

AL-SHAHID Views Future of Saudi Regime

GF261735 Tehran AL-SHAHID in Arabic 25 Dec 85 p 21

[Unattributed article: "Washington Fears for the Future of Al Sa'ud"]

[Text] When one listens to the radio and television and reads the press in the Arabian Peninsula one imagines that all is well, that the Al Sa'ud regime is well, and that the people of the Arabian Peninsula thank God for the blessing bestowed on them by the ruling family.

However, the citizen in the Arabian Peninsula realizes that the media which the ruling and royal family has marshalled in the name of satan was created to polish the miserable image of the Saudi regime. The government of Al Sa'ud is founded on treason and conspiracy against the Arab and Muslim causes, and the use of brute force against the Islamic movement in the peninsula.

The Islamic movement is more resilient than the regime. In recent years the Muslim people in the Arabian Peninsula have begun to understand and feel an affinity with the Islamic movement, as they have realized the correctness of its goals and march, and the wisdom of its ideas and views. They have uncovered ideas that are disseminated by the Saudi regime and its institutions and the political line pursued by the regime with regard to the causes of the people of the Arabian Peninsula and Muslim peoples, and particularly the regime's stand on the liberation of Palestine and the war imposed on the Islamic Republic.

After raising the slogan of jihad for the liberation of Palestine, the ruling family turned 180 degrees and the Saudi ruler, Fahd, raised the slogan of "secure borders for Israel" in his Fahd peace plan — a plan that was a stab in the heart of the Palestinian cause.

With regard to the war, the Al Sa'ud regime does not disguise its support for the ruling Ba'th party of Iraq. The unjust participation in the war is contrary to the wishes of the people of the Arabian Peninsula, who from the very beginning have viewed the war as a strike by the oppressors to destroy the Islamic revolution in Iran which raised the banner of the Islamic message, and have viewed aggression against the Islamic Republic as aggression against Islam. Saudi participation in the war falls within the framework of aggression against Islam. The Islamic slogans raised by the Saudi rulers are intended to mislead and are only words with no action.

It is the Islamic awareness that has begun to spread among the society of the Arabian Peninsula that has prompted the foreign media to ask questions about the future of the Al Sa'ud regime in the peninsula. *THE NEW YORK TIMES* has referred to the decline of the Saudi regime and its loss of nerve because of its inability to weaken the Islamic movement. *THE NEW YORK TIMES* article mentioned the Organization of the Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula [Munadhdhamat al-Thawrah al-Islamiyah al-Jazirah al-'Arabiyah] which led the demonstrations in the eastern region in 1980. The Middle East Research Institute at Harvard University has published a study in which it warned the U.S. Government that the future of the regime in the Arabian Peninsula is grim. The study predicts that as a result of the internal divisions the regime will disintegrate within 10 years.

In the face of such political impotency the ruling family believes that arms deals are the best cure for its malaise. However, the ruling family does not understand at all the meaning of the Islamic awakening, for the Islamic awakening is not based on the number of planes and tanks but on blood, and blood always triumphs.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,363

LD271652 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27 Vian, Kordestan Province — 10 civilians were martyred and 63 wounded and elsewhere [as received] in the village of Robat near the border town of Sardasht (West Azarbayjan Province) 11 were martyred and another 14 wounded as Iraqi war planes pounded Marivan and Robat, at 12:30 hours and again at 12:40 hours local time (0900 and 09:10 hours GMT) Monday [27 January], a military communique reported here Monday.

The communique number 2363 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Wednesday says that Iraqi forces fired several "chemical shells" on Iranian positions in Eynkhosh operational region at 12:15 and again 18:05 hours local time (08:45 and 14:35 hours GMT) Sunday.

Iran's jet fighters bombed Iraq's "Rawanduz garrison" (northeast of Irbil) at 08:35 hours local time (05:05 hours GMT) Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces, the Iranian jet fighters all returned to their bases safely.

The Joint Staff communique says that at least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump together with several gun emplacements of enemy troops were destroyed in the western fronts Sunday as their positions were pounded by Iranian forces.

The command says that Iranian Muslim combatants ambushed Iraqi patrols in Chananeh Sunday and captured two Iraqi patrolmen forcing the others to flee and inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

The communique says that Iranian artillery fire checked transport of tanks and motorized units of Iraqi forces elsewhere in Nahre-Anbar and Chazzabeh regions Sunday halting enemy movements and inflicting considerable damage on enemy troops. Meanwhile, Iraqi forces continued shelling the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Sunday.

Casualties From Iraqi Bombing

LD272039 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA — According to latest reports on an Iraqi aerial [as received] raid on the village of Robat near

Sardasht border town, Monday noon, the casualty figure has risen to 14 martyrs among them two students, and 19 wounded.

On Monday Iraqi war planes bombarded the city of Marivan, in Kordestan Province martyring 10 civilians and wounding another 63. Many houses and shops in the city were badly damaged.

Spokesman Denies Village Attacked

GF250532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters has denied enemy accusations that Iranian planes attacked (Dirluk) village in Al-'Amadiyah District in Iraq. In an interview with IRNA, the spokesman for the War Information Headquarters stated: Following the successful attack by the air force of the Islamic Republic's army against Dirluk garrison and the enemy forces' centers southeast of Al-'Amadiyah, the Iraqi regime claimed that during this attack Dirluk village was a target. While denying this accusation by the Iraqi regime, he emphasized that Iraq's motive for such accusations is to justify their future aggression.

Planes Attack Iraqi Garrison

LD261043 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26. IRNA — Iran's fighter bombers attacked 'Kulak' garrison (36.36 degrees north and 44.19 degrees east) in west of Rawanduz, Iraq, at 11:09 a.m. (07:39 GMT) Sunday. The Joint Staff headquarters, announcing this in its 2362d communique Sunday, added that the Iranian fighter bombers returned to their bases safely after successfully carrying out their mission.

Clandestine Radio Reports Arms Shipment From Libya

GF271753 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The correspondent for the Voice of the Liberation of Iran in the southern ports of our country informed us yesterday that last Saturday a Polish ship coming to Iran from Libya and containing 133 large boxes docked and emptied its load at Bandar 'Abbas.

There are no clear indications of the contents of the boxes but it is being said it is very probable that these boxes carry arms and ammunition because military officials were present in Bandar 'Abbas to unload the shipment.